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The TAHRIK-i-JADID

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Editor :

NASEEM SAIFI

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NUBUWWAT 1354 H.S. **NOVEMBER 1975 C.E.**

Maulvi Shamsher Ahmad Sookia, our Missionary in-charge in the West African territory of Ivory Coast is seen in the midst of his class. The Ahmadiyya children learn from him and from other Ahmadi teachers, the tenets of Islam and how to put them into practice.

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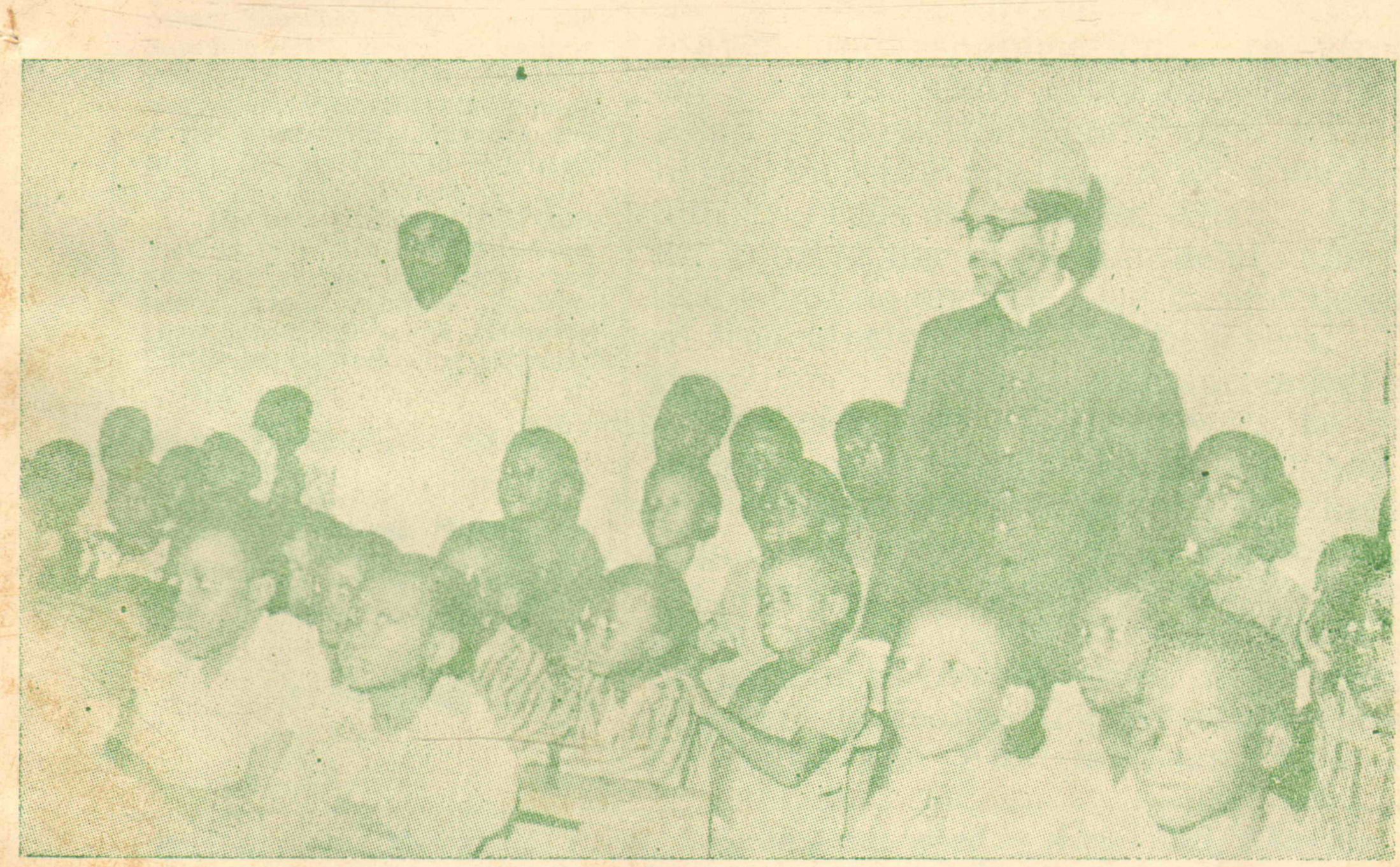

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آپ کے ساتھ کلاس میں ایک اور استاد بھی کھڑے ہیں

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

MONTHLY

TAHRIK-i-JADID

RABWAH

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Editor
NASEEM SAIFI

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THE TAHRIK-I-JADID

A magazine for reporting the day to day progress of Islamic Missions all over the world. It also tells you how religious confrontation is taking place and where and how Islam is winning converts.

This Magazine also carries the gist of the Friday Sermons and other speeches made by the Supreme Head of the Ahmadiyya Jamaat—Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III and reports the events taking place at the International Headquarters of the Jamaat—Rabwah—Pakistan.

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c/o Tahrik-i-Jadid, Rabwah.
(Pakistan)

or c/o Ahmadiyya Mission in your own country—to be redirected by the Mission concerned.

Managing Editor

MALFOOZAT

SUPPLICATE TO NONE BUT ALLAH ALONE

IT must be remembered that the *Salat* (Prayer) which can be really called a *Salat* is the one that is based on prayer and supplication. To stretch one's hands before some one other than Allah is below the dignity of a true believer, for, the one whom we should ask for our needs is none but Allah. Unless we humble ourselves completely and beg God—and no one else—we cannot be called true Muslims and true believers. The significance of Islam (true surrender) lies in the fact that all the powers, be they internal or external, should be made to bow down at the doorstep of God, the Almighty. It is just as a huge engine causes the working of many parts of the machine, so also unless a man submits all his actions to the big power of the engine how can he realise the sustaining power of Allah, the Almighty, and how can

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he say that he is truly straightforward (حنیف) while uttering the words :

انی وجهت وجهی للذی فطر السموات والارض

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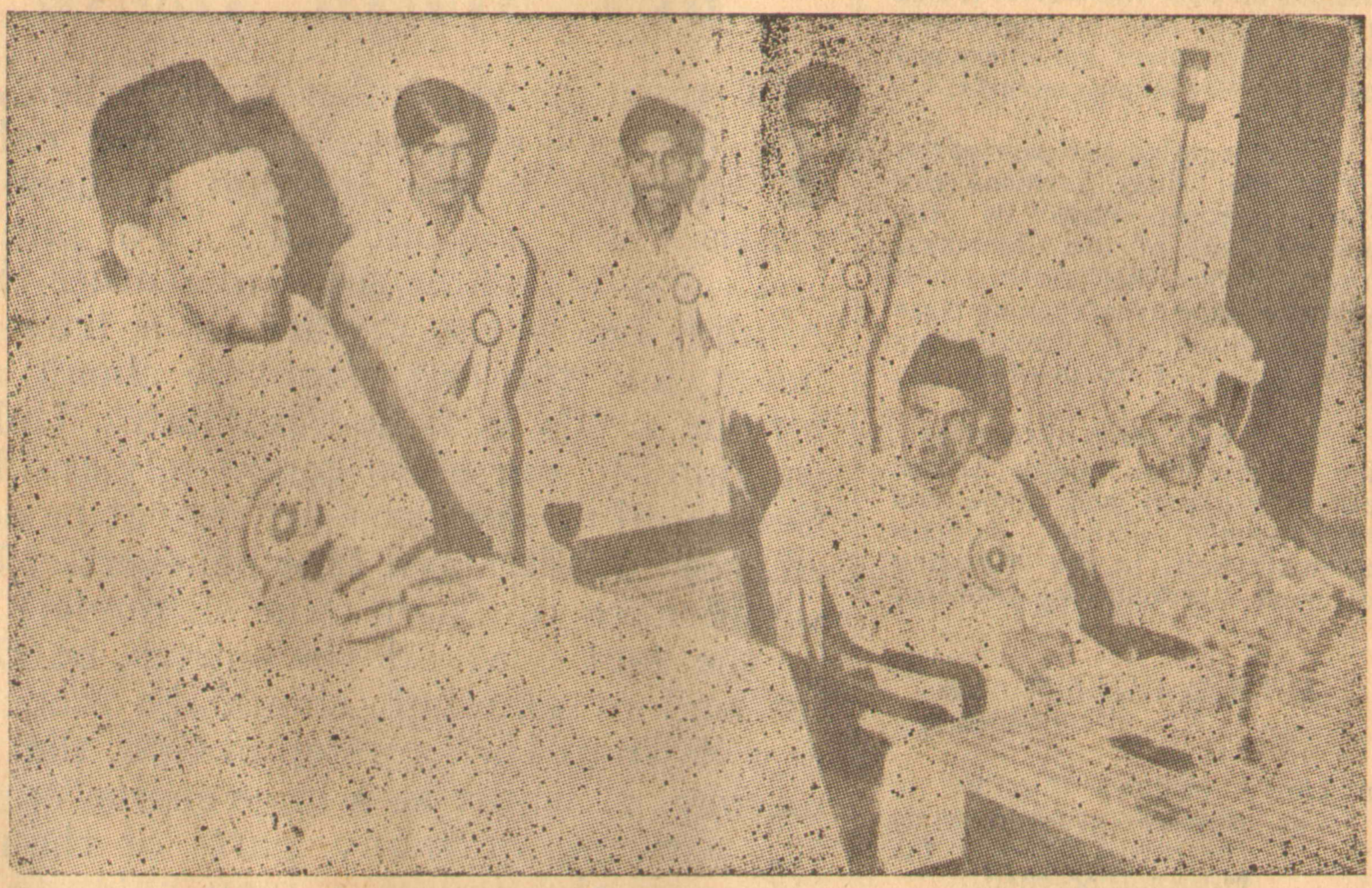
(Verily I turn my face (whole hearted attention) towards Him who has created the skies and the earth).

As he utters these words if he realy and truly turns his attention also to him, then it can be said that he is doubtlessly a Muslim and a believer and a straightforward person. But he who asks for the fulfilment of his needs from others than Allah and he turns to that very side, it must be remembered that he is a very unfortunate person and deprivation will be his lot and the time is not far when he will not be able to turn to God even though he might wish to do so to make a show of it.

(Malfoozat Vol. I p. 144)

Sahibzada Mirza Tahir Ahmad addressing a Prize Distribution Function of the Tibbiya College, Rabwah. Seated at the table are the Vakilut Talim (right) and Mr. N. A. Sajid, the Principal of the College.



محترم صاحبزادہ مرزا طاہر احمد صاحب طبیہ کالج ربوہ کی تقسیم انعامات کی تقریب پر
تقریر فرما رہے ہیں - طبیہ کالج کے پرنسپل مکرم نذیر احمد صاحب ساجد
وکیل التعلیم کے بائیں جانب بیٹھے ہیں

KHUTBA

THE HOLY QURAN ON BEING A TRUE MUSLIM

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ON Friday the 5th of September, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III, told the Jamaat to pray and work hard for the achievement of the objective that has been allotted to them by God. He remarked that the task assigned to the Jamaat was that everybody in the world should be brought under the banner of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

Huzur recited the following verse from the chapter *Ha-Mim As Sijda* of the Holy Quran :

و من احسن قولا ممن دعا الى الله
و عمل صالحاً و قال انني من المسلمين

"And who is better in speech than he who invites men to Allah and does good works and says, 'I am surely of those who submit ?

and said, (gist of what he said in the words of the correspondent) In this verse of the Holy Quran, God says that nobody's word can be better than the word of the person who invites the people to Allah and does appropriate deeds in strict conformity with his faith and also announces that he is one of the Muslims i.e. with the grace of God and with the power granted by Him I am a perfectly obedient person. Here the question arises as to in whose sight the word of the one who calls the people towards God is better than the word of others. The answer is that in the first place it is considered better by God Himself, who has revealed the Holy Quran and in the second place it is better in the sight of those people who have insight. The word احسن (better) used in this verse means the Beauty attributable to God and also the beauty with which the people with insight are endowed. Imam Raghib also says that قولا احسن refers to Allah and to the people with insight. In short what it means is that such a word is better in the sight of Allah and the people with insight.

As for the word قول (word) used in this verse, it might mean the word that is uttered with the tongue and it also might mean the belief and the actions that conform with the belief. The word قول has been used in the Holy Quran in all these three senses. And that is why a believer says what he really and truly believes and his actions always conform with his beliefs. In other words, the word, the belief and the actions of a believer are all in conformity with one an-

other. It is only such a person who has the right to say that :

انني من المسلمين

(i.e. verily I am from among the Muslims.) The person who utters what he does not believe and whose actions contradict his words and beliefs is nothing but a hypocrite. God has mentioned this fact in the following verse :

و اذا جاؤك حيوك بما لم يحيك به الله و يقولون فى انفسهم يعذبنا الله بما نقول . (المجادله آيت ۹)

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Imam Raghib has quoted this verse to show that قول احسن (good word) includes all the three things viz. the utterance, the belief and the appropriate actions."

Huzur dilated on the words دعا الى الله (calls towards Allah) as follows.

It means that one should first and foremost possess these three qualities (good utterance, belief and appropriate actions) and have strong faith in Allah and then call the people towards God. In other words he should tell the people that their belief should be correct and their actions should be appropriate ; he should fear the wrath of God and also he should strive all he can to obtain His love. This indeed is calling the people towards Allah and whoever does that has the right to say انني من المسلمين i.e. verily I am from among the Muslims.

Further, Huzur made mention of some of the attributes of God which he said are unbounded. Talking of one of these attributes he said, "He hears and accepts the prayers. God says in Sura Al-Momin (verse 61)

ادعونى استجب لكم

Pray to me and I will accept your prayers.

He also says in Sura Al-Baqara (verse 187).

أجيب دعوة الداع اذا دعان

I answer the call of the caller when he calls me.

But so far as the acceptance of Prayer is concerned it must be remembered that when the prayer is offered fulfilling all the necessary conditions of the Prayer then God accepts as His all - pervading wisdom wills to do. In other words it means that it is not always necessary that the prayer be accepted in the same form and shape as it is offered. God accepts the prayer in the form that will definitely benefit the person who prays or for whom the prayer is offered. We must therefore remember that the prayers never go amiss ; they are always accepted, though in the form and shape that in the knowledge of Allah is most suited to the person concerned. This fact should also never be lost sight of that some prayers need to be offered over quite a long period of time, for, it is after a long time that their fulfilment is destined by God. People have to offer these prayers generation after generation. One such prayer is that God may unite the whole world under the banner of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. This prayer has been offered by the Muslim Umma for the past thirteen centuries. Now in this Age the promise of God for the advent of the Promised Messiah has been fulfilled and this now is the time that the prayer for the unification of the Muslim Umma and for the rest of the world to come under the banner of the Holy Prophet be heard and accepted—we—you and I—are lucky that we have been able to recognise the Promised Messiah and we have believed in him and we have

been granted the opportunity of winning the hearts of the people to bring them to the fold of Islam. We are also lucky to have been enabled to offer sacrifices for our noble cause. It is now our duty to continue calling the people to God and to mould our own lives in such a way that we can say to our God انني من المسلمين

God has given us the glad tidings that Islam will spread through us by winning the hearts of the people and it will dominate all other religions drawing their followers to its own fold. God has told us that our prayers would be accepted and we would see scenes of يكشف السوء i.e. the evil will be removed (or in other words the hardships and the trials and tribulations will end in our success). Of course, that being the case it is our bounden duty that we should prove ourselves to be deserving of being called Muslims, that is, we should completely surrender to God. It is through us that all the human beings will join Islam and come under the banner of the Holy Prophet peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. We should trust in God and our trust in Him should be of the highest order. The Promised Messiah has made it clear that whoever would not be able to bear the hardships will be cut off from him. Only such persons will be saved as will keep fast to the Holy Prophet and will have a living faith in the good news and the promises in connection with the dominance of Islam ; such persons will continue making all the required sacrifices thus making themselves deserving of His grace and bounties

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Before closing, Huzur remarked that only fifteen years were left for the next century to start and that century would be the century of the dominance of Islam. "God has been very gracious to you that He has enabled you to make sacrifices for the next century that is yet to set in. It is indeed a very great responsibility and all of us must take cognisance of it. We must strengthen our faith and with our words and actions we must invite the people to God. That and that alone can unify the world. Moreover God has said that this invitation is given out to the people by His near and dear ones. The person, who in full accordance with the terms of Allah can say that he is a Muslim should not care for what the people say about him ; he should continue doing his task and making the required sacrifices. We have been granted the weapon of prayer ; we have also been given the weapon of heavenly signs. All these weapons are very effective and it has been destined that Islam will dominate the world through these weapons We should therfore take the time by the forelock and lose no moment at all. Let us make sacrifices and let us constantly pray.

DEDICATION

Do you intend to dedicate your life—or the life of your son—for the service of Islam ?

What preparations] are you making for this great adventure. you should study the Holy Quran with meanings, the Hadis, the books of the Promised Messiah peace be on him, and the religious literature produced by the Jamaat—and, also, you should mould your life in such a way that you can work in every country and under all the circumstances.

Mosques in the Hearts

SPEAKING to the members of the Jamaat at the "People's Hall" Oslo, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III said :

"It is very natural that I should feel great pleasure in meeting you, for, Allah the Almighty has, through His grace, made the Ahmadiyya Jamaat like a family. When the Ahmadis living in one part of the world go to another part of the world and meet the Ahmadis there, they do not feel strangeness in the least, rather on the other hand they feel that they are at home and in the company of their brothers. And why should it not be like that when God has made us like the members of a family and He has made us brothers of one another.

"The reason why I have come to Norway is that I wanted to meet my friends and praise be to God that this objective of mine has been achieved. The second reason of my coming to this place is—and I should like you to understand it well—that I should like the momentum of the spread of Islam to increase. For this reason it is vital that Norway must have a Mosque. In order to get a Mosque in any of the countries, great effort has to be made along with fervent prayers. First and foremost, it is a suitable piece of land that has to be looked for and obtained. A lot of money is needed to buy the piece of land and then the scheme has to pass through so many stages e.g., the plan of the mosque has to be prepared and amendments might have to be carried out. For all this, a lot of effort has to be made and a lot of patience has to be exercised. I have a desire and it is you who can fulfil this desire of mine and especially the efforts and struggle of Mr. Noor Ahmad Bolstad will be greatly needed. I hope the mosque in Gotenberg whose Foundation stone was laid by me recently will be completed within one year and I should like to come to Sweden to perform its opening. It is my wish that when I come for the opening of the Gotenberg mosque the initial stages of the purchase of land in Norway are completed.

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"The Jamaats in Scandanavia are not so rich as to bear all the expenses of the building of the mosque —most of the required money will have to come from U.K. and U.S.A. After the completion of the mosque in Sweden we shall be ready in 1978 to begin the building of a Mosque in Norway. Thus you have two years at your disposal. You should look for a piece of land and get the plan made and get ready to start the building."

Continuing his talk Huzur explained to the audience the great significance of the Mosque as an institution and how it can bring about a revolution in the hearts of the people. He further said, "I am not interested in buildings or the markets (shopping centres). My interest lies in the hearts of the humanbeings for whose change mosque plays a basic part. It is indeed a symbol of a pious change in the hearts of human-

beings and it is an institution which revolutionises the lives of the people. The other religions have been corrupted and their places of worship have also been deprived of the real aim of their building. Since the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, was raised as a Messenger for the people till the day of Resurrection, the mosque has continued to serve its purpose for the past 1400 years ; it has never been deprived of it totally. It has always remained dedicated to the worship of ONE God and in future also it will remain so. Mosque is the house of God and He is, in the true sense of the word, the owner of it ; we are only custodians. Its doors are always open for all those who wish to worship one God, The Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him permitted a delegation of the Christians to worship in his mosque, in their own way. The fact is that the Mosque has given so vast a dimension to the place of worship that no other religion has done that. The Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, has said that the whole earth has been made a mosque for him. It is a very significant saying of the Holy Prophet and it really means that as the whole earth is a very vast place, and its doors are open for everyone and cannot be closed against anybody, so also the doors of the mosque have been kept open for all the believers in one God.

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"The spirit of obedience to the commandments of God that the institution of the mosque instils in the hearts of the people must be imbibed by you in your lives and this is the object that you have to achieve for revolutionary influences that emanate from the mosque. You have to prepare others to build the mosques in their hearts. When our brother Noor Ahmad Bolstad met me this morning I told him that the Scandanavians as compared with the other European nations took very long time to join the fold of Christianity. I am sure when you will build the mosques here and along with them you will build the mosques in the hearts also, these nations will not take long time to join Islam. You are living here among that people and in that culture which you are being told for the past eightyfive years that you have to turn these people to Muslims and you have to change this culture to Islamic culture. You have to win the hearts of the people through love and good example and you have to build the mosques in the hearts. Unless you do that you cannot win their hearts. Islam is so beautiful and charming a relgion that its power of attraction is hundreds and even thousands of times more than the power that magnet has to attract the iron. But you will attract the people only if you show the beauty of Islam in your lives. You should therefore try all you can to live Islamic lives and make your wives and children also do the same. Let all of you be living examples of Islam. This is what I have just now (before addressing this audience) told the female section of the Jamaat. Every one of you will have to live the kind of lives that were lived by the male and female companions of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

EXPORTERS

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The Message of Ahmadiyyat

(Continued from October 1975 issue)

Why has new Jamaat been formed? This question can be answered in two ways : intellectually and spiritually. Intellectually the answer to this question is that it is not merely the number of the people that goes to make a Jamaat. It is not a thousand or a hundred thousand or ten millions of people who can be termed as a Jamaat. Jamaat is actually a colleetion of such people as are prepared to work together with a concerted effort and they have a common programme on which they are acting. If there are only five or six such people they would be justifiably called a Jamaat. But if there are tens of millions of people in whom this thing lacks they won't be called a Jamaat. When the Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, claimed to be a prophet, in Mecca, there were only four persons who believed in him on the first day ; he himself was the fifth person. Despite the fact that they were only five persons, they formed a Jamaat while on the other hand eight to ten thousand people of Mecca could not be called a Jamaat, nor was the whole population of Arabia a Jamaat. It was so because they had not decided to work together and they had no common programme.

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Thus before posing this question one should try to look at others and see if there is any Jamaat of the Muslims. Have all the Muslims of the world joined together for a concerted effort : do they have any common programme. So far as sympathy is concerned, I do agree that they have sympathy for one another - but in that respect also it cannot be said that there are no exceptions. Some of them have sympathy for others, some don't have. Moreover, no machinery exists through which their differences can be removed. Of course, differences can be found even among the members of the Jamaat - rather even in the days of the Prophets differences can arise among their followers. At times there used to be difference among the Muhajir and Ansar while the Holy Prophet was in their midst. Sometimes there used to be differences between some tribes. But whenever the differences were resolved by the Holy Prophet, all the differences used to vanish. Likewise differences used to crop up in the days of Khilafat, but whenever such a thing happened the Khalifa used to give his verdict and that was enough to do away with the differences. Even after the period of Khilafat had come to an end, for almost seventy years the Muslims were under an established government - whether the government was good or bad, at least all the Muslims were linked together. After this the Muslims were divided into two group. One group belonged to Spain and the other group belonged to the rest of the world. It was a dissension, no doubt, but on a very small scale. A vast majority of the Muslims was still united under one established system. After the passage of three centuries , the dissensions were let loose on the Muslims and they were divided into innumerable groups. How truly the Holy Prophet had said :

خير القرون قرنى ثم الذين يلونهم ثم الذين يلونهم ثم يفشوالكذب .

i.e. the best century, is my century and the next best is the one that follows it and then comes the number of the third one. After that falsehood will begin to flourish and injustice and cruelty will take root and differences will become rampant. That is what really happened. And then the dissensions started increasing so much so that during the last three centuries the Muslims lost all the power. There was a time when the whole of Europe feared just one Muslim King, but now the whole of the Muslim world cannot stand one European or American power (At this stage. Huzur told the audience that with the grace of God the Ahmadiyya Jamaat had been established in a large number of countries and in all of them there were really the local people who formed the bulk of the Jamaat and that showed that the Jamaat had doubtlessly taken root in these lands. He mentioned some of the youth of these countries who had dedicated their lives to serve Islam wherever they were posted).

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THE next question centres round the programme of the Jamaat. It must be remembered that the Jamaat has a united and a compact programme and it can be said without any fear of refutation that there is no other Jamaat that has a unified programme (which may cover all the aspects and the whole of the world). The Jamaat has very wisely assessed the strength of the Christian attack on Islam and it is fighting it back in almost every country of the world. At the moment the weakest, in some respects and the strongest in some ether respects - is Africa. The Church has amassed its resources and thrust itself into this field. The Christian Missionaries are now openly declaring that their aim in doing so is to win Africa over to Christianity. It were the Missionaries alone who thought of it first ; then followed the Conservative Party and now the Labour Party has also come out with this very aim. All of them say that the salvation (or security) of Europe lies in the development of Africa and also in her strong organisation. But Europe feels that this development and oragnisation could benefit it only if the people of Africa become Christian. The Ahmadiyya Jamaat was able to visualise this 24 years ago (now more than fifty years ago) and sent its Missionaries there to stem the tide. The result was that the people there left Christianity in thousands and joined Islam. Now the most organized and the best equipped community for this task is no other than the Ahmadiyya Jamaat. The Christians shirk confronting it now. The Christian literature now openly admits that the activities of the Ahmadiyya Jamaat, have become a barrier for the progress of the Christians. The same kind of effort is being put up in East Africa ; this process has been going on there for the past many years. Comparatively the work in East Africa is in its initial stage and very spectacular results cannot be expected but there is no doubt about it that the Christians have started joining Islam and it is hoped that the efforts of the Missionaries here also will produce very good results. In Indonesia and Malaya the Missions have been working for quite some time and every effort is being made to fortify the position of the Muslims and to stop them from going over to the other religions and unifying their strength to combat the Christian onslaught.

The U. S. A. has become the most powerful Christian country and

there also the Mission has been working for more than 24 year (now more than 50 years) and thousands of Americans have joined Islam through the Ahmadiyya Jamaat and they are donating thousands of rupees to be used for the further spread of Islam. No doubt this amonnt, keeping in view the great wealth of America and the money being spent by Christian Missionaries for the preaching of their religion, is very meagre. But the point is that the confrontation has started and our side is winning because it is we who are snatching the followers of Christianity to join Islam ; there is no movement of the people from our side to that of the Christians.

There is therefore no point in asking the question as to why a new Jamaat has been established. The fact that should be admitted is that, Ahmadiyyat has established a new Jamaat whereas none existed before. Tell us, is it objectionable or should this point draw appreciation.

Foundation of First Mosque in Sweden

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The Private Secretary to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III has cabled the good news of the Foundation Stone of a Mosque in Sweden being laid by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III.

The Foundation stone was laid on the 27th of September after fervent prayers led by Huzur. This is the First Mosque in Sweden and also the first that is being built under the Ahmadiyya Centenary Jubilee Plan which has a vast programme of building mosques in Europe, Mission Houses and publication of Islamic literature in addition to a host of other items which have been chalked out to welcome the next century ; the Jamaat is confident of the fact that the next century is the century of the dominance of Islam over all other religions. The first brick that was laid in the Foundation was half of a brick from the Promised Messiah's mosque at Qadian, on which Hazrat Muslih Maud had also prayed. Later, the Missionaries of the European countries were also privileged to lay bricks in the Foundation.

It is of interest to note that Ahmadis from all over Europe were present on this auspicious occasion. The local Press fully covered this historical event.

The life of a person is as important as the claims he puts forward, it is his life that shows the kind of man he is.

"THE PROMISED MESSIAH"

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Naseem Saifi

THE RELIGION OF ABRAHAM

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THE subject of my today's talk is 'The religion of Abraham'. I must admit that it is a very popular subject, but at the same time I cannot help saying that it's one of the most misunderstood subjects. The time most of us learn that somebody is going to talk about the religion of Abraham we get ourselves prepared to know how Abraham used to pray; was it five times a day or more, or less; what was the rate of Zakat that he had prescribed for his followers; how was he making his sacrifices and performing pilgrimage. And things of that sort. For, whenever we talk of religion, that is the kind of things that come to our mind first. The philosophy of a religion and the significance of its various tenets strike us of a lesser importance and therefore they always remain at the back of our mind. Well, that being the case, I must confess that I am going to disappoint most of my listeners. I frankly admit that I do not know in the least as to how Abraham was praying, which way was he facing, what kind of prayer he was offering and what was the condition under which he and his followers were paying Zakat. And you should not be surprised to hear from me that it is not only I who do not know these things, I am quite confident that nobody knows them at all.

Then what am I going to talk about? Well, I am going to talk about the religion of Abraham. And by religion, I mean the cardinal point of religion on which religion actually rests, its tenets, and more especially the most important tenet i.e. the belief in God. I am sure you agree with me that God is the central point of religion. It is from Him that everything else stems.

Abraham, and would you allow me to say Ibrahim, for that is the real name and Abraham is just an anglicised form of it, yes Ibrahim, God's blessings on him, is revered by three great religions of the world i.e., Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Out of these three, Islam has expressed a deeper acquaintance and a stronger relationship with him. In the Holy Bible we do read something about Ibrahim, peace be on him. But it is not enough to show how strongly he believed in God and how did he preach the message of God to his fellow creatures. We just know something about his prayers that is supplications in respect of getting children and their fulfilment along with the promise of God. I use the word promise instead of covenant, for, I know that this word is more easily understandable. One or two journeys are mentioned and a little bit more of his history.

But as for the Holy Quran we have a fuller sketch of his work. In the first place, we are told in clear

words that he very strongly believed in ONE God, and the aim of his life was to submit to Him alone. We read in Sura Aali-Imran :

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O people of the Book ! why do you dispute concerning Ibrahim when the Torah and the Gospel were not revealed till after him ? Will you not then understand ? Behold ! you are those who disputed about that whereof you had knowledge. Why then do you now dispute about that whereof you have no knowledge at all ? Allah knows, and you know not. Abraham was neither a Jew nor a Christian, but he was ever inclined to God and obedient to Him, and he was not of those who associate gods with God.

So, that, in a nutshell, was his religion. It is from this verse that some people have concluded that his religion was called Haneef because the verse says حنیفا مسلما But I do not believe that the word Haneef here is the name of a religion, just as the word Muslim here also is not referring to any religion. Haneef means one who is always inclined to God, just as Muslim means one who has submitted himself to the Will of God. It is in that sense that the righteous people before the advent of the Holy Prophet Mohammad, peace be on him, have been called Muslims, in the Holy Quran, not that actually the name of their religion was Islam and they were known as Muslims.

The whole of his life, Hazrat Ibrahim alaihissalam preached the oneness of God. He did it in various ways. And the Holy Quran makes mention of some of them. Let me quote a few passages as they occur in the Holy Quran :

الم تر الی الذی هاج ابراهیم فی ربه ان اتٰه الله الملك اذ قال ابراهیم ربی الذی یحیی و یمیت (۲ : ۲۵۹)

Tarnslation : Hast thou not heard of him who disputed with Abraham about his Lord, because Allah had given him kingdom ? When Abraham said, 'My Lord is He Who gives life and causes death,' he said, 'I also give life and cause death'. Abraham said, 'Well, Allah brings the sun from the East : bring it thou from the West.' Thereupon the infidel was dumbfounded. And Allah guides not the unjust people.

This disputation about God is said to have taken place between Hazrat Ibrahim alaihissalam and Namrud, the ruler of his days. We find Hazrat Ibrahim preaching to his father who was a trader in idols in these words :

و اذ قال ابراهیم لابیه ازر اتتخذ اصناما الهة انی ارك و قومك فی ضلل مبین (۶ : ۷۵-۸۰)

And remember the time when Abraham said to his father Azar Dost thou take idols for gods ? Surely I see thee and thy people in manifest error. And thus did We show Abraham the kingdom of the heaven and the earth that he might be rightly guided and that he might be of those who have certainty of faith. And when the night darkened upon him, he saw a star. He said : This is my Lord. But when it set, he said, I like not those that set. And when he saw the moon rise with spreading light, he said : This is my Lord. But when it set, he said, If my Lord guide me not, I shall surely be of the people who go astray. And when he saw the sun rise with spreading light, he said, This is my Lord, this is the greatest. But when it set, he said, O my people, surely

I am clear of that which you associate with God. I have turned my face toward Him Who created the heavens and the earth, being ever inclined to God and I am not of those who associate with God.

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That is one of the most cogent arguments. It also shows the sharp wit with which Hazrat Ibrahim faced his opponents.

Here is another passage of the Holy Quran on the same subject :

اذ قال لابیه یابت لم تعبد مالا یسمع ولا یبصر ولا یغنی عنك شیئا (۱۹:۴۶-۴۳)

When he said to his father, O my father, why dost thou worship that which hears not, nor sees, nor can avail thee aught? O my father, there has indeed come to me knowledge such as has not come to thee; so follow me, I will guide thee to an even path. O my father, serve not Satan ; surely, Satan is a rebel against the Gracious God. O my father, indeed, I fear lest a punishment from the Gracious God seize thee, and thou become a comrade of Satan.

At a certain stage in his life Hazrat Ibrahim alaihissalam actually took some practical steps against the worship of idols. I am not to discuss here those steps in details but I should like to quote the relevent passage from the Holy Quran :

اذ قال لابیه وقومه ما هذه التماثیل التی انتم لها عکفون (۲۱ : ۵۳-۵۸)

When he said to his father and his people, What are these images to which you are so devoted? They replied, 'We found our fathers worshipping them'. He said, indeed you yourselves as well as your fathers have been in a manifest error. They said, is it really the truth that thou has brought us, or art thou one of those who jest. He replied, Nay, your Lord is the Lord of the heavens and the earth, He who made them ; and I am one of those who bear witness to that. And by ALLAH, I will certainly plan against your idols after you have gone away and turned your backs. So he broke them to pieces, all except the chief of them, that they might return to it for enquiry.

From all what I have said, it is quite clear that Ibrahim alaihissalam believed in the oneness of God and he always resigned himself to the Will of God. He found his people immersed into idolatory and preacned against it. He even took some practical steps to teach the people the futility of their belief in their false deities. I have now to mention one thing more before I close my talk. And that is the practical step that he took in perpetuating the worship of one God. That is the building of a House of God. It is now known as Ka'aba. This is what the Holy Quran says

واذ یرفع ابراهیم القواعد من البیت واسمعیل ربنا تقبل منا انك انت السمیع العلیم .

And remember the time when Abraham and Ishmael raised the foundation of the House, praying, Our Lord, accept this from us ; for thou art All Hearing, All Knowing.

That refers to the Ka'aba. And that is the practical step that he took to perpetuate the worship of One God. The Holy Prophet Mohammad was a descendent of Hazrat Ibrahim and, like him, he was a very great, rather the greatest exponent of the

(*Continned on page 19*)

Notes & Comments

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THE HOLY QURAN

(Continued from the last issue)

THE third reason why the Holy Quran was revealed piecemeal was that it was only in this way that it could take deep roots in the hearts of the people. Now when a Hindu joins Islam he finds Muslims all around him acting upon the teachings of the Holy Quran and therefore he does not meet any difficulty in adjusting himself to his new religion. But someone is given a book—the whole of it in a complete form—and he is told to act npon its teachings while there is none else who can be take as an example, he certainly would not be able to learn how to act upon it even in the course of one hundred years. That is why, in order to make the teachings of the Holy Quran take deep roots in the hearts of the people, it was vital that it be revealed and given to them piecemeal. It was necessary that the next commandment was revealed only when they had learnt to act upon the previous one and that is how this continuation had to take place.

The fourth reason is that if the whole of the Holy Quran had been revealed once for all its arrangement would have remained the same and that would have been very dangerous for us just as it would have been dangerous for us if the Holy Quran had been arranged in the some order as it was revealed. Had the commandments about the prayers and the fasts been revealed at a time when the prophethood of the Holy Prophet had not been proved conclusively, it would have been difficult for the people to understand. It was very necessary that as first steps the oneness of God, and His Godhead and the prophethood of the Holy Prophet was proved to the people; they had to be told that God's existence is a reality and the Holy Prophet is a true Messenger of Allah. It was after this that they could be invited to act upon the teachings revealed by God through the Holy Prophet. This arrangement was necessary in the beginning but now it is not so, for, there is a large number of people (Muslims) who believe in the existence of God and in His oneness. Whoever now enters the fold of Islam he does so after he has satisfied himself about the truthfulness of the Holy Prophet and the excellences of Islam. That is why he needs the same arrangement of the Holy Quran as it is at present.

The fifth reason is that if the whole of the Holy Quran had been revealed once for all, cross referencing would not have been possible. For example the Holy Quran prophesied that God would take the Holy Prophet away from his enemies, safe and sound. If the Book had been revealed once for all, it could not be said that there was any such prophecy which has been fulfilled by the Holy Prophet migrating to Medina.

The sixth reason is that if the Holy Quran had been revealed once for all, the opponents might have raised an objection that somebody else had written it down for him. What really happened was that a part of it was revealed in Mecca and the rest in Medina. If the Meccans were to say that somebody was writing for him when he was in Mecca how could they support this accusation when he had gone to Medina. Moreover the Holy Quran was revealed while the Holy Prophet was travelling and while

he was at home, it was revealed while he was with the people and also while he was alone. These things quash the allegation of the opponents that others had also taken part in preparing the Holy Quran. In fact the verses were revealed in perfect accordance with the needs of the time and that is why no one could be justified in saying that somebody was writing these verses for him.

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Thus it is conclusively proved that the slow and gradual revelation of the Holy Quran was a means of strengthening the heart of the Holy Prophet and it also added to his certainty of faith and God-realisation.

—◀▶—

HADIS

IT is related by Ibn-i-Suhail that Qatada asked Anas (may God be pleased with all of them) as to which prayer the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, used to offer more often. He said : this is the prayer he used to offer

اللهم اتنا فى الدنيا حسنة وفى الاخرة حسنة وقنا عذاب النار .

i.e., O Allah, grant us the good of this world as well as the good of the next world and save us from chastisement of fire.

The fact is that this is the most comprehensive prayer, for, through it we ask Allah to grant us the good of both the worlds. If we are really granted the good of both the worlds what else is left for us to ask ? It also gives us a guideline for our supplication. It is not what we want that matters ; it is what is good for us that we should be concerned with. For, if we ask for something and we are granted it but ultimately it proves to be harmful for us, what is the use of wishing for such a thing —and ge ting this wish granted. That is why t e best way of asking is to ask for whatever is good for us. The prayer mentioned in this hadis draws our attention to this fact very conspicuously. The other thing to which it draws our attention is that we should never be jealous of others ; we should remain contented with whatever we have got. Of course that does not mean that we should not ask for more. We must continue asking for more and more good of this world as well as the good of the next world, but we must never wish the deprivation of the others. Let them have what they have and never be jealous of them. That is one of the interpretations of being saved from the chastisement of fire. Jealousy is like fire and whoever is jealous he is like a person who has a fire burning in his heart. That indeed is a punishment. May God save all of us from jealousy.

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Lajna in Germany

THE President of the Lajna Imaillah (Central) has sent the following report of the first Jjtima of the Lajna in West Germany for publication. We wish this Lajna and all the others in all the parts of the world God's blessings.

The report :

'The First Ijtima of the German Lajna was, by the Grace of Allah, held in the Frankfurt Mission House on Saturday, the 6th of September 1975.

The programme was as follows :

Recitation from the Quran

By Hidayat Begum Hubsch

Translation in German
Qanita Amina Doris Muller
Pledge (عہد) to Khilafat in German
Qanita Sadiqa Khan
Urdu Speech
Nurunnisa Khan
Poem
Kausar Shaheen Anwar
German Speech and vote of thanks (including souvenir gifts)
The President Qanita Khan who made an appeal for funds. All the Lajna members spontaneously responded.

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The closing speech was delivered by Maulvi Fazl Ilahi Anwari who also conducted the General elections and led the silent prayer at the end of the first session.

Children's competition in Prayer and Quran Recitation took place under the supervision of Sister Nurunnisa Khan. Five prizes were awarded to the winners.

A delicious meal and sweet dishes to which all had contributed were enjoyed in a sisterly atmosphere. The fine weather added to the success of the first German ijtima Day. Alhamdulillah.

Prayer is requested for the progress of the German Lajna.

—◀▶—

Word of Allah for Benefit of Man

TODAY the Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission in Zambia presented copies of the Holy Quran to the Ridgeway Hotel Management to be placed in its rooms and suites.

Presenting the Holy Quran to the Deputy Manager of the Hotel, Mr. F. Sempela, the Chairman of the Association, Mr. Jalil R. Malik, said that the Ahmadiyya Mission, a world wide Organisation, is endeavouring to supply copies of the Holy Quran, in different languages, to various hotels in different parts of the world. This presentation is a part of the same programme.

He further said that earlier a number of copies were presented to the North Western Hotel, at Livingstone, which have been greatly appreciated by the guests and residents. The Mission trusts that the guests and residents of the Ridgeway Hotel would also derive spiritual and material guidance by reading the Holy Quran.

In reply, the Deputy Manager thanked the Mission for providing one of the needs of the guests. He also indicated that a number of guests have even asked for this Holy Book.

—◀▶—

The Auction is unlawful

SOME time ago the Ahmadiyya Mosque in Rawalpindi was auctioned by the Rehabilitation Deptt. of the Govt. of Pakistan. The Ahmadiyya Jamaat lodged a complaint before the Settlement and Rehabilitation Commissioner who adjudged that the said aucation was "Without a lawful authority not desering sustainance and is consequently not approved."

The judgement covers almost seven foolscap pages, we reproduce the concluding portion for the information of our readers.

(This judgement was announced on the 8th of September 1975)

After considering the arguments adduced by the parties carefully, I feel the auction of the suit property was improper as Settlement Scheme No. VIII stood annuled with the repeal of the D.P. (C & R) Act, 1958 and no scheme under section 3 (1) (A) of the repealing act had been prepared. Moreover the learned DSC after changing the schedule of the auction from 15-16 and 17 May. 1975 to the 30th and 31st May, 1975 did not specify the date for the receipt of objections from the affected persons in the terms conditions of the auction. Even otherwise it was held which question was still determinable by the learned DSC that 1/634 had been purchased by the Sadar Anjuman Ahmadiyya from Mian Mohammad Shafi demarcation of property No. 1/634 and 35 was an essential prequisite before putting property No. 1/635 to auction. From the Perusal of the relevant record produced by the representative of the learned DSC it also appears that the learned DSC who presided over the aucation was not authorised to do so by the Addl. SRC. Permission was essential. Viewing the auction in the light of the above discussion it would appear to be without a lawful authority not deserving sustainance and is consequently not approved. The earnest money or ¼th of the highest bid deposited by the bidder be refunded to him without any forfeiture.

Sd.

Settlement & Rehabilitation
Commissioner,
Rawalpindi Division, Rawalpindi.

Announced
8.9.1975

—◀▶—

November, 1975

A staff reporter of the Pakistan Times (20.10-75) has the following to tell the readers of the said newspaper.

Rising fad for pornography in Lahore

Digitized by Khilafat Library Rabwah

Despite Government efforts to eradicate obscenity, evidence is not lacking that pronography is finding much favour with some type of people.

A few young people in Lahore, for example, received Eid greeting cards the other week bearing pictures designed to arouse base passions. Parents were shocked to see the drawings.

Blue pictures also continue to be screened. Some cinema owners have hauled up for showing dirty films. Blue movies it is well known, are also shown at some private houses.

Pronographic books too are being clandestinely sold. Gag books replete with smutty stories and jokes are not hard to come by either.

How sad it is that our (Pakistani) next generation who are the fathers and mothers of tomorrow and also leaders in every phase of life are going down the drain so rapidly. The deterioration that is now coming on the surface is simply deplorable.

Who is responsible for it? It is very difficult to fix the blame. Not because it is not known on whose shoulders the responsibility rests, but because there are so many people who are involved that putting them together would not really make a cohesive picture and every-one of them would like to turn the responsibility to some other quarter. The parents, the teachers, the friends, the writers the publishers,

and a host of others. All of them are one way or the other, and to a lesser degree or a greater degree, responsible. The parents are not so close to the children that they may be able to guide them. Perhaps the parents have no time for younger ones and when they are grown up, and checked, the children do not have enough confidence in their parents. Some parents do not like to admit that their children are on the wrong track. Nobody dare tell them a word about it. That goes to enrourage the children to carry on their march on the road to degradation.

The teachers, it is a common feeling now, do not take the pupils as their own children. What to them if the children go wrong. Very few, if any take interest in the betterment of the lives of their pupils.

The bad company that the children are sometimes doomed to have, also pushes them into the gutter. They make them as bad as bad can be. It is only in the beginning that if the child is removed from the bad company that he can be saved. Once his friendship with bad people has become close, the child is damned and he can fly in the face of anyone telling him to leave that company. It is for the parents to know who the friends of their children are. If the parents don't care they have no right to complain at a later stage that their children have become what they never wanted them to be.

The writers and the publishers who write and publish what can be called unhealthy literature are also to be blamed. Writing better things and publishing them will also give them as much of money as they are now getting. Why then to turn to the wrong side and spoil the people *en masse*

Once obscenity and pornography sets in, it has no end. Look at the West. How it is now in the grip of this evil.

Let all of us try to close all the avenues through which obscenity and pornography can enter our society. Let every shoulder be to the wheel. This is individual as well as collective responsibility. May God help all of us.

A CALL

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The Best of all the Guides who came :
To teach, to preach, to show one God :
To tell how man should deal with man !
How path of God the Guides trod.
My friend, know ye his name or not ?
Listen from me !
He's known Mohammad, the praised one—
On him may blessings be.
He came to teach, to preach, to show,
How man is equal to man,
How we should live a godly life,
How we should spend this little span,
Come, come, my friend and join Islam ;
'Tis best that you can do.
Why wander here and there and waste
The time that God gave you.

Eness

MIRACLES

The miracles go to prove the existence of an all-Powerful God ; He can do whatever He likes. But we must never forget that He is an all wise God and whatever He does is full of wisdom and His works increase the faith of the true believers.

Of course the word miracle must not be toyed with. You should not expect a stone start talking like the human beings talk nor you should expect a tree to become a man. For, there is no wisdom in that and God's works are all full of wisdom.

Now read the following news that has appeared in the Press. The heading of the news is "Bleeding Christ mystry" and the text of the news is as follows :

BOOTHWYN (Pennsylvania) Oct. 20: A doctor says his test shows the substance on a so-called "bleeding statue" of Christ in this Philadelphia suburb is human blood. But Dr. Joseph Rovito cautioned that he did not see the statue bleed and did not know if the statue actually produced the blood itself.

"If anybody can convince me that nobody's putting the blood there on the palms of the hands, then I would feel it's a miracle," Dr. Rovito said on Saturday.

He said his examination of the statue owned by Mrs. Russel Poor, rebutted a theory that the statue could be made to bleed by an internal pumping device. Both arms were removed in his presence, the 61-year-old Roman Catholic said and the insides "were immaculately clean, snow white and extremely porous."

Mrs. Poor refused to permit the Roman Catholic archdioces of Philadelphia to make the blood tests which Dr. Rovito said he performed "out of my own curiosity."

"Two things leave me in doubt," Dr Ravito said.—APA.

It is very courteous of Dr. Ravito to say that 'two things leave me in doubt". The fact is that in such "miracles" everything leaves everyone in doubt.

There was a time when someone said that the arm of a statue of Christ was moving as it was giving some instructions. We wonder why the people fabricate such stories.

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The Religion of Abraham

(*Continued from page 13*)

oneness of God. That is why the Book given to him i.e., the Holy Quran makes mention of Hazrat Ibrahim at length.

To recapitulate, Hazrat Ibrahim was a believer in One God, and he always submitted himself to Him. If we say that we should follow the way of Hazrat Ibrahim, it only tantamounts to saying that, like him, we should submit to our Creator. It is in that sense that people have been enjoined in the Holy Quran to be followers of Hazrat Ibrahim, or to be one of his Millat.

LITERATURE

Please tell us what kind of literature you require to present to your friends for their further guidance in order to make them understand the ideology and practice of Ahmadiyyat. May be we can help you immediately or produce more literature to fulfil your needs.

Who is my Saviour ?

(Continued from October, 1975 issue)

Son of God

The next question to be discussed is whether God did send His begotten son to the world to die for the sins of mankind or not.

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Our Christian friends say that God did send His begotten son—Jesus Christ—who died for the sins of mankind. We do not agree. We do not believe that God has any son at all. Neither He has any person as shareholder of His Powers.

The Christians base their belief on the fact that Jesus was born without a father ; that he has been called the son of God in the New Testament ; that a voice came from heaven calling him 'My beloved son', and things of that sort.

We do agree that Jesus was born without a father but that in no case means that he was the son of God. There are quite a number of cases where the children are said to have been born without the agency of a male member. We read in Hebrews, "For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him ; To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all ; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also king of Salem, which is, King of peace ; without father, without mother, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life ; but made like unto the Son of God ; abideth a priest continually." 7 : 1-3.

If we look around ourselves we shall find that such cases are to be found even today. Very recently the scientists have proved that virgin birth is nothing un-natural. The people in Africa knew it since long. For details I should like to recommend a pamphlet 'Virgin Birth' published by the Ahmadiyya Community of Nigeria, which gives an account of some recent cases.

Moreover, is it not a common knowledge that there are so many smaller insects which come into existence without the agency of male member of their species ? Thus the fact that Jesus was born without a father does not make him the son of God.

So far as his being called the son of God, in the Bible, is concerned, it should surprise nobody at all. For, this metaphor occurs in the Bible scores of times and in regard to scores of people. God has called many others His sons. And Jesus has told us that all the righteous people are the children of God. We read in *Genesis*: "There were giants in the earth in those days ; and also after that when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown." *6 : 4* Again, "And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the Lord, Israel is my son, even my first-born." *Exodus 4 : 22.* Again, "Which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God., Luke 3 : 38. Again,

"But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you : that ye may be the children of your father which is in heaven." *Matthew 5 ; 44—45.*

Did Jesus Die on the Cross ?

What I have said in the last few lines goes to prove that Jesus was not the son of God in the sense the Christians believe him to be. He was the son of God only in the sense in which every righteous person is a son of God. And that being the case the question of his having been sent specially to the world to redeem the people from sin does not arise.

Having proved that Jesus was not the son of God, there seems no need for me to disprove his death on the cross. But still I should like to take it up as a separate issue and say a few words about it.

The Christian friends say that Jesus died on the cross. We do not agree with them. The reasons of our disagreement are as follows :

I. We find in the Old Testament that anybody who dies on the cross becomes accursed. Jesus was a chosen one of God and, therefore, he could not die on the cross. (And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree : His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day ; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God ;) that thy land be not defiled, which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance. *Deuteronomy 21:23*)

2. Jesus Christ had prophesied that he would enter the heart of the earth *just as* Jonah entered the belly of the whale. Jonah, we know, entered the belly of the whale as a living man. Jesus must, therefore, be alive when he enters the sepulchre which is possible only if Jesus is taken down alive from the Cross. (The words of the prophecy are : An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign ; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly ; so shall the son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. *Matthew 12:39,40*

3. Jesus had fervently prayed that he should not die on the cross (And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my father ; if it be possible, let this cup pass from me : nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. *Matthew 26 : 39*) and his prayer had been accepted (Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared. *Hebrews 5 : 7*)

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4. Jesus had disguised himself on coming out of the sepulchre which shows that having once got rid of the cross he was afraid to undergo the same ordeal again, (Jesus said unto her, Woman why weepest thou, whom seekest thou ? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him. Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. *John 20 : 15*). Had he died on the cross and then conquered death he would not have disguised himself.

5. Jesus was on the cross but for a short period of time : and when Pilate was told that he had 'died' he wondered at it (And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead *Mark 15 : 44*). for he knew that he (Jesus) could not have died so soon.

Moreover when a soldier with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water (*John 19 : 34*) it was a conclusive proof of the fact that Jesus was still alive.

All these facts in view, we cannot agree with our Christian friends that Jesus died on the cross. He was definitely taken down alive.

Belief in the Blood of Jesus

The next point in this series of arguments is that God requires us to believe in the blood of Jesus before we can be redeemed of our sins and get eternal life. Having proved that Jesus did not die on the cross we cannot even imagine God requiring us to believe in the blood of Jesus. If Jesus had really been the son of God and if he had actually died on the cross we might have had to think over this point but now it fails on the very face of it. Also, if he did not die on the cross there remains no question of his resurrection.

Summary

This is what I have proved :

1. Adam did not commit a sin.
2. The punishment of whatever Adam did was not death.
3. What Adam did has not affected us at all.
4. The question of getting rid of inherited sin does not arise.
5. Jesus was not the son of God;
6. Jesus did not die on the cross.
7. We are not required to believe in the 'blood' of Jesus.

Jesus, therefore, is not our Saviour

The fact is that we need the grace of God which may enable us to do His will. The grace of God does not descend on those who do not try to make themselves deserving of it. The most effective way in which we can make ourselves deserving of the grace of God is that we should obey Him in all that we are told. Whenever a Prophet is raised for our guidance, we should follow him.

As for our Christian friends, we draw their attention to the prophecies contained in the Old and the New Testaments concerning a prophet to be raised after Jesus Christ about whom Jesus said that he would abide with the world for ever. That prophet is Mohammad, peace be on him. (If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever. *John 14 : 15, 16*).

Digitized by Khilafat Library Rabwah

If we really want to be *saved* we should obey God and follow the Holy Prophet Mohammad, peace be on him, and do good deeds. So far as mere belief is concerned it is of no value at all.

The question "Who is my Saviour" can thus be best answered by saying, "My Saviour is the Obedience of God. No individual whoever he might be, can save me if I do not obey God. I, therefore, do not believe in anybody being my Saviour in the sense that the Christians believe Jesus Christ to be their Saviour."

(Naseem Saifi)

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'Jesus did not die on Cross' Talk ends in Rumpus

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A LECTURE by a South African Muslim leader on the crucifixion of Jesus ended in chaos at Lusaka's Evelyn Hone College when angry Christians accused him of blasphemy and Bible distortion.

In his one-and-half-hour lecture on Wednesday night, Professor Ahmad Deedat had told more than 500 people of different denominations that Jesus' crucifixion was fake and that he never died as told by the Bible.

He claimed that Jesus could not have died on the cross within three hours because according to Phoenicians who invented this type of execution, it was meant to take as long as three days.

The Muslim preacher claimed that Mary Magdalene who was all along present during the torture of Jesus knew that he had not died on the cross and had been alive in the tomb.

That was why she went there the following day to massage his body, he said.

"According to the Jewish custom and that of the Muslims, one cannot annoint or massage a dead body because if you did, the flesh will fall to pieces. Mary knowing very well that Jesus had not died, went to the tomb to massage him, but unfortunately she found that he had been taken out by probably the disciples or the owner of the garden," Prof. Deedat added.

Resurrected

He said Jesus afterwards disguised himself as a gardener because he was afraid people might have found out what actually happened.

Prof. Deedat argued that if Jesus had resurrected from the dead he should have proved it by addressing public meetings and appearing to ordinary people instead of going into hiding.

The lecture broke into chaos when at the end of his lecture, the professor invited questions from the audience. They bombarded him with many questions and accused him of having quoted the Bible out of context.

One man asked Prof. Deedat if he believed Jesus existed biologically or spiritually. When he answered that Christ existed as a human being but not born of man and woman, the man told him to call off the lecture.

On the ascension of Christ, Prof. Deedat said that there was no such a thing and that ancient people talked of such things out of imagination. He then produced a Revised Standard version of the Bible which he said had left out the ascension story because it never happened.

(Times of Zambia, August 22, 1975)

ATHEISM

From Russia, Without Love

Digitized by Khilafat Library Rabwah

THE Promised Messiah, peace be on him, was told by God that Islam would spread in Russia through Ahmadiyyat. Russia at present is anti-religion and even anti-God, but the word of God must be fulfilled and sooner or later the tide must turn.

Islam is the religion which conforms with the nature of man. However the nature of man may be pressed to accept things that it does not like, it would come back to its own. Atheism is anti-nature and therefore it cannot subsist for long. Especially when God has prophesied that Islam would spread there through the followers of the Promised Messiah. The present position of Russia as seen by a correspondent of the TIME is given below. It has been culled form TIME'S issue for March 13, 1964.

The Soviet government, certain that religion is the opium of the people, has always tried hard to help its citizens kick the habit. Last week Pravda announced that the Communist Party had undertaken a grand new programme to excise God from the minds and the hearts of all Russians.

The plan, drawn up by the party's Ideological Commission, is perhaps the most thorough in Soviet history. The commission will set up a new Institute of Scientific Atheism, offer courses in the subject at Russian universities starting this fall. Atheism will be taught more intensively at party training centers and in special courses for teachers, doctors and journalists. Already started are competitions for the best atheist plays, films, paintings and photographs (one entry shows believers gloating over a collection plate). To counteract the emotional appeal of church feasts, the party will give greater emphasis to Russia's secular festivals—such as Cattle Breeder Day and Corn Grower Day, now celebrated joyously throughout the Ukraine.

If atheism is to succeed, warned Commission Chairman Leonid Ilyichev, non-believers must embark on a person-to-person campaign—"more heart-to-heart talks, frank explanations and patient conversations." He suggested the formation of Young Atheist clubs, whose members could enter into anti-religious dialogues with believers, such as warning pregnant women about the physical dangers involved in baptism and circumcision.

The new campaign emphasized that the Soviet drive against God has been hardly more successful than Khrushchev's farm programme. It is 46 years since the revolution, and yet the Russian Orthodox Church still claims 50 million members in a population of 226 million ; in addition, there are at least 25 million Muslims, 3.5 million Jews, and uncounted thousands who have been converted from non-belief by the Baptists, Seventh-day Adventists and Jehovah's Witnesses.

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RACES

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THE Black race of America that has been neglected and in fact oppressed, cannot take things lying low any more. They are now conscious of the fact that they are as much American as anyone else can claim to be. They have made sacrifices for America and they have played their part in advancing its culture. We reproduce an article from TIME (American Weekly Magazine) for March 27, 1964.

TEACHING

Desegregated History

"When I was going to school," re-calls Author James Baldwin, "I began to be bugged by the teaching of American hi tory, because it seemed that history ha(been taught without cognizance of my presence." Baldwin's figurative forebears go back at least to 1513, when 30 Negroes sailed to the New World with Balboa. Yet the most widely used eighth-grade history text in the c(untry today mentions only two Negroes by name as having lived since the Civil War, brushes off the Emancipation Proclamation in two sentences. Belatedly, educators are coming to see that it is high time to desegregate the teaching of U.S. history.

Last year in Detroit the elementary schools (47% Negro) began supplementing courses with a 52-page paperback on Negro history that ranges from ancient times to Martin Luther King. Last week the schools of Washington, D.C. (86% Negro) introduced *The Negro in American History*, a 130-page teachers guide that can be drawn on by all grades and read by eleventh-graders as part of their regular course. Armed with a rich bibliography, it brings out that :

● The biggest slave-trading American colonies were not Southern but Northern—Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island.

● The first American casualty against the British was a Negro—Crispus Attucks, a runaway slave killed in the Boston Massacre of 1770.

George Washington barred Negroes from the Continental Army until the British began recruiting slaves. Alarmed, the Americans then enlisted more than 5,000 Negro soldiers, used them in integrated units.

● Contrary to folklore, slaves hated slavery so passionately that thousands joined bloody revolts. The biggest was led in 1831 by Nat Turner, a Virginia slave preacher. whose rebels killed 60 whites before he was captured and hanged. Also contrary to folklore, the U.S. had 488,000 free Negroes by 1860, almost half of them in the South.

● The first success suit in the U.S. against school segregation occured not in the South of the 1950s but in Boston in 1849.

● In the Civil War, more than 210,000 Negroes fought in the Union army and won 20 Congressional Medals of Honour. More than 38,000 Negro soldiers were killed in 449 battles.

Negroes contributed key inventions to 19th century U.S. industrialization —for example, the mechanical laster that revolutionized shoe manufacturing. Granville Woods, holder of 150 patents, developed the third rail for electric trains in 1890, as well as induction telegraphy for communicating with trains in motion.

● The first Negro to serve a full term in the U.S. Senate (1875-81) was able, cultivated Blanche K. Bruce, son of a white Virginia planter and a slave, who was educated by a

tutor escaped to the North, studied at Oberlin College and after the Civil war became a Mississippi planter.

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● The first American woman to earn more than $ 1,000,000 on her own was "Madame" J. C. Walker, a St. Louis laundress who in 1905 developed a "hair conditioner" that created "a new world for Negro women in America."

● The first American who actually reached the North Pole (1909) was Matthew Henson, a Negro who accompanied Admiral Robert E. Peary.

● West point graduated its first Negro in 1877 (but no Negroes got through Annapolis until 1943).

● In World War II, the Red Cross at first refused to accept blood from Negro donors, and later took it only on a segregated basis. Ironically, it was a Negro, Plasma Expert Charles R. Drew, who set up U.S. blood banks.

As the new text notes, the four-century history of the American Negro is a grim tale of 'enforced isolation from the mainstream of American life." That a few remarkable Negroes have nonetheless managed to write "a record rich in achievement" does not balance the unhappy fact that most have not. Yet now the isolation is breaking down ; Negroes may see that colour is disappearing as an excuse as well as a barrier. Washington's history students may well conclude, as a top official hopes, that "there is no telling what a young Negro of today can do."

—◀▶—

THE ideology of racists is gravely repugnant to human nature. After all, human beings have a common heritage. They are all alike and exceptions do not come from colour of the skin or the nationality. Islam, the last and lasting message for humanity says that it is only the fear of God, i.e. the goodness of the heart and appropriate actions that can distinguish the people. The more a man is pious, the better human being he is. Be he a king or a beggar, white or black, eastern or western, what can go in his favour is virtue that emanates from him. But the pity of it is that no religion other than Islam puts all the people on the same pedestal in so far as their humanity is concerned, and that being the case, apertheid in one way or the other continues to exist. Let Islam dominate the world and then all the human beings will feel that they are equal. Equality in fact cannot prevail in the world without Islam being adopted as a way of life.

The following article published in the Daily Nation of Kenya (26-7-75) shows how serious this problem is and what drastic steps must be taken to uproot it.

The article is captioned "Church Boss thrown out" and it runs thus :

Church boss thrown out !

Visiting church leader Dr. Carl McIntire was yesterday deported from Kenya.

McIntire, president of the International Council of Christian Churches, was thrown out for abusing Kenya's hospitality and "making irresponsible statements in support of regimes."

His deportation was announced to a cheering National Assembly, by Vice-President and Minister for Home Affairs, Mr. Daniel arap Moi.

Speaking shortly after he had signed the order declaring Dr. McIntire *persona non grata*, Mr. Moi told the

House: "We are a self-governing Republic and cannot tolerate anyone coming from nowhere telling us how we should run our own Government.

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"As I talk to you now, the so-called Christian is at the airport waiting for his plane to take him away."

Mr. Moi's statement was met with deafening Parliamentary applause and late in the afternoon the American Embassy protested.

One MP suggested that Dr. McIntire should have been sent to Kamiti first.

"Send the man to jail first for he is a traitor," demanded a sprinkling of voices in the House.

The Vice-Presidant was still speaking.

"Those who come after him will know well that Kenya is not a hyenas paradise, but a country with her own protectors. Let the man and his followers now go and petition to the United Nations over the issue as he had stated in the Press.

He appealed to the Africans participating in the conference to declare their stand because McIntire had said Africans were on his side and supported his wild statements.

"They should come in the open and let us know where they stand," Mr. Moi said. He added he shared the same feelings as MPs on Dr. McIntire's behaviour since his arrival as characterised by his statements.

"That is why I have had the man deported, for the interests of the people of Kenya. He came to Kenya as a Christian but has abused not only the Kenyans, the President and the Government of Kenya, but also his own religion."

False prophets, he continued, come into our midst pretending to be the holiest of the holies and acting for Christ while they are 'dirty and filthy'. They are the Pharisees we have all read about."

A mildly-worded note of protest from the American Embassy acknowledged Kenya's right as a sovereign state to exclude or expel an alien at any time and for any reason. But the Embassy's charged' Affaires, Mr. Ralph Lindstorm, protested that "such expulsions should not, in accordance with the international law, be effected in such a precipitous manner as to deprive the alien of minimum protection."

He did not say what protection was denied to Dr. McIntire.

Members of Parliament said they had wanted Dr. McIntire deported earlier.

Minister for Health Mr. James Osogo and Assistant Minister for Co-operative Development Mr. Henry Cheboiwo congratulated Mr. Moi for having taken the action.

Too Late

Mr. Osogo regretted that the action, "though good, was taken rather too late. Dr. McIntire ought to have been deported from Kenya on the very first day he publicly supported Ian Smith's minority regime".

He added: "He said he wishes to appear before a Parliamentary Speaker's Committee, but one wonders for what purpose."

Mr. Martin Shikuku, MP for Butere, "saluted the Government for having deported that hyena."

"We want him (Mr. Moi) to remain tough on such people who come here to insult the Government and people of Kenya," he said.

Dr. McIntire was picked up from the Six-Eighty Hotel in Nairobi shortly before 9 a.m. by uniformed immigra-

tion officials, and driven straight to the airport.

He was out on board at 10.47 a.m. East African Airways flight bound for Rome via Entebbe.

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Official suspicion over the "halo" Dr. McIntire was wearing began when on Monday the ICCC dubbed Ian Smith "an upholder of civilisation in the face of hostility from Black Africa".

The Council statement said, among other things, that Smith and his fellow Whites in Rhodesia were determined to keep hold of the reins of government and uphold "Christian civilization."

A barrage o criticism was provoked by these statements, from the Government of Kenya, local Church leaders and the public.

Vice-President, Mr. Moi, and Acting Foreign Minister, Mr. Babu Wood asked Dr. McIntire to apologise for the wild statements coming from the council but he refused.

Instead, he demanded an apology from the Government.

EIDUL FITR IN LONDON

Another cablegram from the Private Secretary to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III, says that the Eidul Fitr was observed in London on the 7th of October. The Ahmadis in London (and they included people from various countries) had the good luck of being led in prayer by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih. In his Sermon Huzur admonished all the members of the Jamaat to carry the message of Islam to all the four corners of the world. They should gird up their loins, he said. There were no less than two thousand members of the Jamaat who attended the prayer. Purdah arrangement had been made for the ladies while the men prayed under the colourful canopies in the open grounds.

This was the second occasion that a Khalifa led the Eid Prayer in London, the first being the Eidul Azhiya in 1955 which was led by Hazrat Muslih Maud, the Khalifatul Masih II.

THINK OVER IT

Whenever a Reformer appears in the world, it is the great men who oppose him most, for, it is their ego that gets hurt more than anyone elses. They, on the other hand think that the tact that they have not fallen in line with him goes to prove that the claim of the Reformer is false. Some of the misguided common people also think that their great men have argued the case very nicely and the Reformer therefore is nothing but an imposter.

It must be remembered the greatness of the opponent of the Reformer is no proof of the opposition being on the right.

Do you think if Shakespeare or Milton or Dante had opposed a Reformer, the Reformer would have been an imposter simply because he was opposed by so great writers.

This is something to think about and to pass on to others.

Let them Ponder

Nafeesur Rahman A. G. Soofi

LONG has the Church, whether representing, the Jewish, the Christian or the Hindu religion, claimed human pockets and souls in the name of God. It has set man against man in the name of a cause making its own holier than that of its rival. Rivers of blood have flown freely ; populations have been forced out of their homelands ; children have been separated from their parents, wives from their husbands and brothers from brothers. Hatred of a neighbouring nation, even of a fellow-citizen has been exalted into a holy cause and a scared duty and men have been instigated, coerced and paid to learn the art of killing fellow-men and pillaging their homes.

All this and much more and much worse has been done in the name of God. Each Church and each religion has been claiming to speak in His name, clamouring to shed blood in His cause and eager to loot and ransack and burn under His command.

Credentials of True Religion

Where are your credentials ? Do you come to speak in His name, to demand human lives and loyalties on His behalf, to call upon men to butcher fellow-men and to denounce the rival faith at your behest ?

Are you in touch with Him ? And how ? *Does He speak to you ?* Where is that speech ? Did it come true ? *Does He guide you in the hour of difficulty ? Does He show signs for you ?* Where are those signs ? *Does He grant you knowledge, power and light in the hour of your need ?* What power, what knowledge, and what light did He grant you ? *Does He hear you and answer your prayers ?* Name your prayers and name the answers. *And did you find them true ?*

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These are some of the questions that every religion claiming to proceed from God and to lead men back to God, must answer. It is only fair. For, religion claims the hight loyalty, the heaviest price that man can pay and it promises what no man can give. It has therefore a right to ask its price but so has man right to know if the all-claiming religion has a bank balance, a credit account with God ; whether its bonds are honoured and will not bounce back like rubber chequs.

The Christian Church is putting up the loudest noise, it offers salvation for a little song—Jesus carried away all the sins of men. God offered His only begotten to pay up for the faults of human beings with his blood. It is as simple as that. But where is the evidence ? Is God behind this claim ? Let Him speak then. We shall hear and obey, if He does.

Basic Elements of Religion

The basic elements of a truly Divine religion are ;

(1) the sense of human need of Di-

vine help (2) belief in the possibility of communion between man and God (3) conception of willingness of God to aid man (4) a means of bringing about that communion and so of opening up for man the possibility of Divine help.

The Christian Church claims to lead men to 1) an ideal life in harmony with God (2) it further claims that the Christian term 'Father' shows His character (3) that He is holy and His holiness does not shut him away from men (4) that man is a prodigal son—a sinner (5) that he finds under the ministration of Divine spirit a new allegiance to God in Christ (6) that harmony with God animates him with the spirit of loving sympathy with all men. This is said to be the Christians' warrant for works of charity though we are not told of the Church's warrant for the 300 year long bloody crusades, for the infamous Inquisition and for the continuing world wars and for the expanding war industry which is the backbone of the Christian world economy to-day.

It is a tall order indeed. And there is no evidence at all in history that God ever manifested any signs of His grace, power and knowledge for the followers of Jesus during the last 1300 years, through any individual, or through the mediatory ministration of the Church. Faith in the saviour role of Jesus has exercised no beneficial influence on Christian society. It is steeped in extreme sinfulness with vengeance and has thrown itself willingly headlong in the vortex of carnal passions and has no wish at all to be saved. In fact, it is not prepared to accept any moral sanction and believes only in the sanction of natural urges and in their immediate satisfaction. Its energies, its resources, its thoughts and its efforts are entirely devoted to procuring means for unbridled and unabashed indulgence in physical pleasure and in the pursuit of utter earthly happiness. All the laws operative in advanced Christian society aim at safeguarding the right of the individual to have his way, "*to be himself*" and to have "*a good time.*"

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Why is it so ? Because there is no spiritual life in present day Christianity. It is a dead tree that has long ceased to bear fruit. Its role has been played out. It is a back number in the Divine scheme, a repealed order, a derelict house and a creek that has run its course and gone dry.

God, therefore, is not to be found in the Christian Church. Its life has oozed out and now only the empty shell remains.

God in Islam

The Promised Messiah says :

"But revelation to the Holy Prophet Mohammad has not discontinued, nor miracles. In fact, they have been manifested continuously through the *elite* among his people who gloried in the honour of obedience to him. It is, therefore, why Islam is a living faith and its God, the Living God. This servant of the Lord is accordingly here to testify in this age. Thousands of signs have appeared at my hands in confirmation of the Prophet of God and the Book of God and I am honoured with the pure Divine word almost everyday. Now then be attentive and think over it hard that when numerous faiths of the world claim to be of Divine origin, how would one know that they are truly such ? The true faith must carry a distinctive mark, for, mere rationalization is hardly enough to establish its credentials. Even men can talk rationally

and a god who is the product of bare human arguments is hardly worth the name. On the contrary, God manifests Himself through mighty signs. A faith that is absolutely God-given must carry with it signs bearing the Divine seal so that its Divine origin is clearly proclaimed.

"Such a faith is Islam. God who is hidden behind veils is known only through this religion and manifests Himself only to its true adherents. The true faith has the Hand of God behind it; through it God declares '*Here I am*'. Religions that have no bases apart from stories are no better than idolatory. They are totally devoid of the spirit of truth. If God is still living with His faculties of hearing of speech intact, there is no reason why he should not hear and speak now as He used to before. If, on the contrary, He no more speaks in this age, He can certainly hardly hear either. In other words, He is nullity.

"To know God intimately is not an easy job. It is not the function of materialistic philosophers and thinkers to discover Him. For, a study of cosmos leads no further than that such a sound and perfect organization *must* have a Fashioner. It does not lead to the fact that the Fashioner *is* really there. There is clearly a world of difference between *must* and *is*. The Holy Quran alone leads to the divine source. It does not merely point up the necessity of knowing God, it shows Him, no other book leads to Him.

"I swear by the person of God Who holds my life in His Hands that I am honoured with His sacred, sure and decisive word, almost everyday. And I see that the Lord of whom Jesus the Messiah begged "Why hast Thou forsaken me"? never forsook me. Like the Messiah, I t o faced numerous attacks but the enemy failed in every onslaught They plotted to hang me but unlike the Messiah I was not put on the cross. In fact God saved me at the time of every calamity. And He manifested for me mighty miracles and swung powerful blows and through thousands of signs assured me that it was He, the only God. Who had sent down the Holy Quran and commissioned Mohammad as His Prophet."

God seen through Mohammad

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"We have seen God Whom this world does not know, through this Prophet. And that door to Divine revelation which had been bolted upon other faiths, was opened to us through the grace of this Prophet and the miracles that are so many legends and stories current among other people, were manifested to us through this Prophet. And we found the station of this Prophet is high indeed, infact the highest, and there is no room at the top."

(To be Continued)

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